



FIRST THINGS FIRST

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May 26, 2010

Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board
First Things First
4000 N. Central Avenue, Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Dear Chairman Lynn and Members of the Board,

The Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council is pleased to present to the First Things First Board its Access and Affordability Strategy for SFY2011 Regional Funding Plan. The Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council is respectfully requesting the Board to approve this strategy and implementation to begin in Fiscal Year 2011.

On May 12, 2010 the Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council approved the development of a strategy to address access & affordability through partial scholarships with the funds from unexpended emergency scholarship funds and carry-forward funds from SFY2010. The total allocated by the Regional Council was \$180,000 for these Child Care Tuition Scholarships.

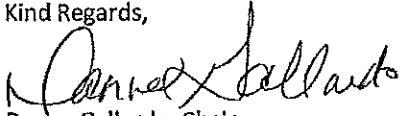
The Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council has learned that this support is extremely important in the region. Child care scholarships help support families whose incomes have been lost or decreased as a result of the state's economic crisis, while at the same time providing young children with a consistent and nurturing child care setting, which positively impacts school readiness skills. Using available information and data, the Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council carefully considered the use of regional funding for a partial scholarship strategy and approved up to \$180,000 in State Fiscal Year 2011 for approximately 32-33, one-year partial scholarships to families whose incomes are at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Child care providers receiving regional scholarships will demonstrate a commitment to quality by meeting the following criteria:

- Program provides early care and education services to children birth through age five, and
- Program is regulated and in good standing with appropriate certifying, licensing or regulatory authority, and
- Program demonstrates a commitment to quality by one of the following:
 1. Is enrolled as a Quality First participant, actively working towards quality improvement, or
 2. Is accredited by one of the National Accreditations recognized also by ADE and DES, or
 3. Has applied for Quality First (Improvement or rating, when available) and does not decline an opportunity to participate.

On behalf of the Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council, please accept our appreciation for your support of all children in the Santa Cruz Region. We await your response in consideration of this strategy. Thank you for your consideration.

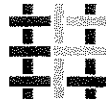
Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Danja Gallardo'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Danja' and last name 'Gallardo' clearly distinguishable.

Danja Gallardo, Chair

Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council



FIRST THINGS FIRST

The right system for bright futures

SANTA CRUZ REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL 2011 FUNDING PLAN SUMMARY

Regional Allocation 2011: \$1,347,560

Carry Forward from 2010: \$188,413

Funding Available for Allocation in 2011: \$1,535,973

Prioritized Needs	Goal Area	Proposed Strategies	Portion of Regional Allocation	Recommendation to the Board
Access to quality early care and education	Health	Strategy 1- Child Care Health Consultation	\$120,000	Approved 1/26/10
Access to comprehensive family education and support services (Family Support)	Family Support	Strategy 2- Home Visiting/Promotora Services	\$336,600	Approved 1/26/10
Access to oral health screenings and varnish applications	Health	Strategy 3- Oral Health Screenings and Varnish Applications	\$74,800	Approved 1/26/10
Access to a skilled and well-prepared childhood development workforce	Professional Development	Strategy 4- T.E.A.C.H.®	\$129,000	Approved 1/26/10
Recruit and retain a skilled and well-prepared early childhood development workforce	Professional Development	Strategy 5- Workforce Recruitment & Retention Therapist Loan Repayments	\$46,057	Approved 1/26/10
Recruit and retain a skilled and well-prepared early childhood development workforce	Professional Development	Strategy 6- "Grow Our Own" Professional Development Scholarships (Non-TEACH)	\$46,200	Approved 1/26/10
Communication, education, and awareness about the importance of early childhood development to targeted populations	Communication	Strategy 7- Communications	\$80,000	HOLD
Strong family support and education services	Family Support	Strategy 8- Family Resource Center(s)	\$452,600	Approved 1/26/10
Evaluation			\$15,000	HOLD
Access to quality child care	Quality, Access and Affordability	Strategy 9-Child Care Tuition Scholarships	\$180,000	Recommend Approval
		Subtotal of Expenditures	\$1,480,257	
		Fund Balance	\$55,716	
		Grand Total	\$1,535,973	

Santa Cruz Summary Financial Chart SFY 2010-2012

Revenue	SFY 2010	SFY 2011	SFY 2012 Estimated	Total
FTF Total Allocation for the SFY	\$1,395,580	\$1,347,560	\$1,347,560	\$4,090,070
Fund Balance (carry forward from previous SFY)	N/A	\$188,413	\$55,716	
Total Available Funds	\$1,395,580	\$1,535,973	\$1,403,276	
Strategies	SFY 2010 Obligated	SFY 2011 Proposed	SFY 2012 Estimated	Total
1. Child Care Health Consultant-CCHC	\$100,000	\$120,000	\$120,000	\$340,000
2. Home Visiting/ <i>Promotora</i> Services	\$336,600	\$336,600	\$336,600	\$1,009,800
3. Oral Health-screenings and varnish applications	\$74,800	\$74,800	\$74,800	\$224,400
4. T.E.A.C.H.	\$129,000	\$129,000	\$129,000	\$387,000
5. Workforce Recruitment and Retention: Therapist Loan Repayments	\$46,057	\$46,057	\$46,057	\$138,171
6. "Grow Our Own" Professional Development (Non-TEACH)	\$46,200	\$46,200	\$46,200	\$138,600
7. Communications	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$240,000
8. Family Resource Center	\$125,000	\$452,600	\$452,600	\$1,148,985
9. Child Care Tuition Scholarships	\$0	\$180,000	\$0	\$180,000
Emergency Food Boxes	\$61,575	\$0	\$0	\$61,575
Emergency Child Care	\$207,935	\$0	\$0	\$0
Needs and Assets	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Evaluation	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
Subtotal Expenditures	\$1,207,167	\$1,480,257	\$1,300,257	\$4,167,681
Fund Balance (carry forward)	\$188,413	\$55,716	\$103,019	
Total	\$1,395,580	\$1,535,973	\$1,403,276	

Strategy Name: Child Care Tuition Scholarships

The Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council has identified that the current economic downturn has had a negative effect on the general stability of families and their ability to support the cost of stable, quality, and consistent child care and education for their children. Furthermore, the resulting impact on the providers threatens the overall viability of the early care and education system in the region. This is of major concern to the work of the Regional Council and the general well being of young children of the region.

In order to address these needs and concerns, the Regional Council will utilize child care scholarships at 70% of the 75th percentile of the Department of Economic Security (DES) 2008 Market Rate Survey to increase access to consistent, quality, and affordable child care for eligible families in the region.

Many children and families living in the region are experiencing extreme financial hardship that places paying for quality early care and education programs out of their reach. These circumstances have created barriers for young children to gain access to high quality care and education, which is essential for school readiness.

It is estimated that in Arizona fifty-three percent of families with children under the age of 18 live at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).¹ Providing economic support for families with children birth through age five for families in the Santa Cruz Region by reducing the cost barrier to continuous, affordable, safe care is the intent of this regional strategy

Scholarships support continuity of care to children so that previously formed supportive relationships with care providers can remain in place. Research shows that children thrive in the care of familiar care providers who, along with their parents and family, play a significant role in their lives and on whom they count on for consistency, feelings of security, belonging and love. Continuity of care is particularly important for children birth through age five as they are in the developmental stages of building basic trust and a sense of self. Disruptions in care, particularly those that are abrupt and stem from changes in child care settings, can be minimized with the use of scholarships.

The high cost of early care and education is one of the most difficult obstacles to obtaining and maintaining employment for many low-income or single-parent families. Without access to quality care, families may be forced to decide whether to quit their jobs, withdraw from college or training opportunities, or leave children in care that is not their primary choice. Scholarships can support families who are employed, seeking employment or who are improving their skills by participating in training or education to better compete in the market place and who wish to give their children an educational boost. The use of child care scholarships is intended to provide support throughout the region so that working families can maintain their own infrastructure by continuing to work and meet the needs of their children. Scholarships will further help to stabilize the existing child care infrastructure within the region.

The Santa Cruz Regional Partnership Council will implement the use of scholarships for children whose family income is under 200 percent of the federal poverty level, with priority given as listed below. Scholarships will be limited to two (2) children per family. Child care providers receiving regional scholarships may be either center based or home based, and must demonstrate a commitment to quality by meeting the following criteria:

- Program provides early care and education services to children birth through age 5 and not yet in kindergarten, and
- Program is regulated and in good standing with appropriate certifying, licensing or regulatory

authority(ies), and

- Program demonstrates a commitment to quality by one of the following:
 1. Is enrolled in Quality First, or
 2. Is accredited by one of the National Accreditations recognized also by ADE and DES, or
 3. Has applied to participate in Quality First and does not decline an opportunity to participate in Quality First.

Utilization of regionally funded scholarships will provide young children with access to full-time child care for a one-year period, and will provide stability and continuity of care to help children remain in stable, familiar learning environments, while their parents are able to continue to find work, continue working or improve their skills to better compete in the job market through training and educational opportunities.

¹ U.S. Census 2007

Lead Goal: FTF will increase availability and affordability of early care and education settings.

Goal: FTF will improve access to quality early care and education programs and settings.

Key Measures:

- Current cost of early care and education for families as a proportion of the median income for a family of four
- Total number of children enrolled and vacancies in regulated early care and education programs as a proportion of total population birth to age five

Target Population:

- Children birth through age five (who are not in kindergarten) with a preference for infants and toddlers where possible. Families must reside in Santa Cruz County and must demonstrate an economic difficulty in keeping their child in their current early care and education placement or difficulty accessing consistent care. Eligible families must have household incomes at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Priority will be given to families who may experience one or more of the following barriers (but is not limited to):

- Children from families at or below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level
- Infant and toddler care
- Teen parents
- Single parents
- Parents working, underemployed, currently looking for employment, or currently attending school or receiving job training

	SFY 2011	SFY 2012	SFY 2013
	July 1, 2010 –June 30, 2011	July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012	July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
Proposed Service Numbers	Approx 32-33 12-month scholarships	TBD	TBD

Performance Measures:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # children receiving scholarships/proposed service # • Cost to parents/proposed target # • # parents reporting satisfaction (minimum questions provided by FTF staff)/strategic target # 	
SFY 2011 Expenditure Plan for Proposed Strategy	
Allocation for proposed strategy	\$ 180,000
Budget Justification:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Estimated Administrative Costs: \$9,432 (5.24%) – Estimated Child Care Scholarships: \$170,568 – Scholarships to be paid at 70% of the 75th percentile of the 2008 DES Market Rate Survey. (With Parent co-pay, providers are not to collect payments in excess of usual and customary costs.) – Centers and Homes strictly adhere to the formula identifying the number of scholarships any one Center or Home can receive (small center/home, medium, large, etc.) – Approximately 32-33, 12-month scholarships 	

